आ रहा है, सरकार का उस पर क्या नियंत्रण है? किसान तो मरते हैं, बिहार के किसानों का पूरा गेहूं, सीड्स के कारण बर्बाद हो गया है। इस तरह से हर जगह पर ऐसा हो रहा है।

श्री शरद पवार: सभापति महोदय, यह बात सच है कि spurious सीड्स के बारे में कई राज्यों से बार-बार शिकायतें आती हैं और इसको नियंत्रित करने के लिए सख्ती से कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है। इसी काम के लिए सीड्स एक्ट का प्रोपोजल आज सदन के सामने है। सीड्स एक्ट स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के पास गया है। स्टैंडिंग कमेटी द्वारा इस पर विचार करने के बाद यह सदन के सामने आएगा। इसमें कई ऐसे प्रावधान किए हैं कि जिससे किसानों के हितों की रक्षा हो जाएगी और किसानों को फंसाने वाले या गलत सलाह देने वाले जो लोग हैं, उनके खिलाफ कड़ी कार्यवाही करने का इसमें अधिकार है, हम उसी रास्ते पर जा रहे हैं।

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, hon. Minister has started paying attention to the State of Jammu and Kashmir but here I want to raise a particular question. Scab has ruined our horticulture, particularly, apple. Now, there are pesticides which are adulterated with a lot of compulsion from the private sector. Our Ministry of Agriculture is organised. Why can't they prescribe one or two pesticides which farmers will purchase and apply because so many adulterated pesticides are there and those pesticides have further deepened the problem and then he has a horticulture mission and in Jammu and Kashmir horticulture is the mainstream. Would he kindly explain crop insurance covering all kinds of horticulture like apples and other crops under that mission?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: *There are two things. Government has not* received any complaints from the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: I am complaining on behalf of the agricultural sector.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Certainly, I will be very happy to deal with your complaint. You give me in writing. Give little details. Definitely, we will inquire and take corrective action.

Forest Development Area Projects of A.P.

*444. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Forest Development Area (FDA) projects of Andhra Pradesh pending with the Union Government;

(b) whether Government have drawn up any plan on these project proposals.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the fund released by his Ministry for FDA projects in Andhra Pradesh during the last one and a half year?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) 32 Forest Development Agency (FDA) project proposals of Andhra Pradesh have been received in the Ministry of Environment and Forests till date. Out of these, 29 projects have been approved so far. The remaining three proposals pertain to wildlife divisions of the State, namely those of Warangal, Paloncha, and Rajahmundry.

(b) and (c) The three wildlife FDA proposals have not yet been approved by the Ministry for the relevant information from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the State to the effect that the three proposals are in conformity with the approved wildlife management plans of the concerned wildlife divisions is awaited.

(d) An amount of Rs. 17.76 crore (Rs. 14.21 crore in 2004-05 and Rs. 3.55 crore in 2005-06 till now) has been released for FDA projects in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, I am fully satisfied with the answer given by the Minister but I want to draw the attention of the Minister to utilise this opportunity that in many areas which have been classified as forest areas, not even a single plant can be grown. They are not regulated forest area and places like Rayalaseema of Andhra Pradesh obtain minerals which are available in those areas. When the people apply for mining leases they will collect eight to nine lakhs of rupees per hectare towards the net present value as per the Supreme Court order and Government of India has yet to come out with a specific programme. I would like to know whether the Government has got any plan to come out with a specific programme in consequence with the judgement of the Supreme Court because most of the people are indulging in illegal mining in the forest area. Neither you are regularising it nor are they stopping the mines. At least you will have to create some employment for these poor people.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, under the Forest (Conservation) Act, we are having provisions to divert the forest for mining and other development projects. But, as the hon. Member put it, there is a case before the Supreme Court with regard to fixing up of Net Profit Value. We look at this when we allot forest land for developmental purpose, including mining. As soon as the judgement is delivered, we will look into the suggestions made by the hon. Member which are important.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, they are collecting this money as per the judgement and the hon. Minister is saying that judgement is yet to come. Okay.

The second aspect is this. In Travancore, there was a project under BOLT, and it was asked to pay some crores of rupees for alienation of land. The land has been alienated after twenty years of their request for a pilgrimage purpose, because more than 20 lakh people will congregate at a particular place. Can the hon. Minister give an assurance to this House that the amount can be waived off as per the request of the devasthanam?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, it is a statutory obligation. I think, as a Minister, I have no discretionary power to dispense it. Whatever concessions can be availed under the statutory provisions, it can be done.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Can the hon. Minister recommend for it? ....(*Interruptions*)... At least, you can recommend it to the Revenue Department of the State.

श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल: सभापति महोदय, इस देश में वर्षों से वन महोत्सव का कार्यक्रम चल रहा है। अगर यह कहा जाए कि अनादि काल से चलाया रहा है, आजादी के बाद से लेकर अब तक, तो गलत नहीं होगा। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि वन महोत्सव के कार्यक्रम में देश में कितने वनों का विस्तार हुआ है और सरकार की जो योजना थी, उस योजना के अनुसार वे कार्यक्रम पूरे हुए हैं या नहीं? यह मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जवाब चाहता हूं।

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, in the Tenth Plan, we have launched the National Afforestation Programme for which we are spending Rs. 1,200 crores from our own resources and Rs. 3,000 crores are being pumped in from the external assistance by way of JBIC Bank and other countries. This task has been taken up by the Ministry with the help of State Governments by constituting Joint Forest Management Committee at the village level. To ensure people's participation, we have developed the Forest Developmental

Agencies at the district level for which the Conservator of Forests has been made as the Chairman. In this also not only there is people's participation, but NGOs are also getting a due share in this programme. Our National Forest Policy declares that by 2007 we should achieve 25 per cent of the forest cover. Of course, we need 33 per cent forest cover according to the geographical area. The Policy further says that by 2012 we have to achieve 33 per cent forest cover. Of course, it is a Herculean task. It has been stated in the Forest Action Plan that Rs. 1,35,000 crores is required to meet this task within 20 years. I think it is a Herculean task. However, our perpetual exercise is going on and we endeavour to achieve it.

श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल: मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया है। मैंने यह नहीं पूछा कि क्या ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: बस हो गया। बैठ जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)... उत्तर मिल गया है।

श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल: मैंने यह पूछा था कि कितनी सफलता हुई है?

श्री सभापति: जो उत्तर मिल गया है, वही ठीक है। आप भाग्यशाली हैं।

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Sir, the hon. Minister says that he is going to increase the forest cover in the coming years. I want to know this from the hon. Minister. In Andhra Pradesh, about 2 lakh acres of deep forest is submerging under the Polavaram Project. How the hon. Minister is going to enhance the forest cover by providing necessary funds?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, in the reply itself it has been stated clearly that 29 Forest Development Agencies have been created there. Through those agencies, so far, Rs. 37 crores has been sent and we are ready to give more money, provided all this JFMCs and District Forest Agencies working...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Sir, my question has not been answered.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, इन्होंने तो आन्सर ही नहीं दिया है।

श्री सभापति: अब नहीं दिया है, तो मैं क्या करूं ...(व्यवधान)... श्री मलयसामी ... (व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: हजारों की तादाद में आदिवासी हटाए जा रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: वह ठीक है, आपने जो बात कही, लेकिन ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, मंत्री जी ने जवाब ही नहीं दिया है।

श्री सभापति: मेरी सुन लीजिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)... एक मिनट बैठिए...बैठिए।

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, लेकिन वे जवाब तो दें।

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: सप्लीमेंटरी क्वेश्चन्स ऐसे होने चाहिए कि वे मेन क्वेश्चन के परव्यू में आते हों। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, इन्होंने कोई क्लीयरेंस दिया है क्या? इन्होंने कोई क्लीयरेंस दिया है, जो इतने फारेस्ट सबमर्ज हो रहे हैं? ...(**व्यवधान**)...

डा॰ अलादी पी॰ राजकुमार: सर, यह बहुत इम्पार्टेंट प्रश्न है। पोलावरम प्रोजेक्ट के लिए environmental clearances दिया है या नहीं? ये कह रहे हैं कि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को environmental clearance मिल गया है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, it is not just a State Government project issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... is the Minister aware of this project and has he given clearance for it? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, बोलिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: प्लीज सर, उनको जवाब देने दीजिए।

SHRI A. RAJA: Please repeat the question.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: The question is this. Lakhs of hectares of land is being submerged in Andhra Pradesh for a project. What we want to know from the Minister is whether he has given clearance for that Polavaram Project or not. Thousands of *adivasis* have been displaced in that projects, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... has he given clearance? ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him answer the question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Has he given clearance to that project? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए, जवाब देने दीजिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

Please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: That is very important ...*(Interruptions)*... You please sit. You have no right to ask any question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Chairman has given the permission to Madam. ...*(Interruptions)*... You have no right to put a question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, पोलावरम प्रोजेक्ट में 300 गांव सबमर्ज होने जा रहे हैं। हजारों की तादाद में आदिवासी प्रभावित हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is replying to your question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

वे जवाब दे रहे हैं।

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, the Central Government, as such, is giving money under the National Afforestation Programme district wise. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: बैठिए...बैठिए...(व्यवधान)... इनको बोलने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Mr. Minister, Madam has asked, even I asked, a specific question. Please say, 'yes' or 'no' ...*(Interruptions)*... You tell me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. RAJA: This is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will come to you. ...*(Interruptions)*... you hear me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: इनको बोलने दीजिए। Let him explain what he is saying. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. RAJA: With due respect to the hon. Members, most of the Members from Andhra Pradesh are suffering due to the ignorance of this project. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Sir, it is a very simple question. ...*(Interruptions)*... for a simple question, he is deviating. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: It is such an important question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I won't allow ...*(Interruptions)*... It will not go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Why is he deviating from the question? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: बोलिए...बोलिए।

SHRI A. RAJA: That is why, I am ...*(Interruptions)*... Whatever be the general project being adopted in the Government of India, it is given to the States. This specific project that has been given as a Polavaram Project, has been placed before the Committee. It is a State Government project. It has been placed before the Clearance Committee. It has been recommended to give clearance. But the project has to be accepted by the State and the Central Governments after environmental clearance. Clearance has been given. We have taken up the project thereafter. What has been stated before this House by me is with regard to the afforestation programme. We are constituting a forest developmentals... ...*(Interruptions)*... This is the information. ...*(Interruptions)*... That project is recommended. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सभापति महोदय, इनके जवाब में ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: अब जो जवाब देंगे, वहीं देंगे, मैं क्या करूं? ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, this specific project is not related to this question. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri K. Malaisamy ...(*Interruptions*)...

बैठिए... बैठिए ...(व्यवधान)... Let him put his question. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री मलयसामी, बोलिए। ...(व्यवधान)... बैठिए... बैठिए, बोलिए ...(व्यवधान)... आप बैठ जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)... Mr. Narayanasamy, please take your seat. ...(*Interruptions*)... Shri K. Malaisamy, please put the question.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I am not going to generate any heat. I am going to put a very simple question; the hon. Minister could relax!

What are the norms, or priorities, being adopted in the matter of request for clearance for road projects or power projects? Are they demand-driven or discretion-driven?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, these are not discretionary.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I could give you a number of examples from Tamil Nadu.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, there are prescribed guidelines contemplated in the Forest Conservation Act itself; they are not discretionery. There is a technical committee by the name Forest Advisory Committee. That Committee scrutinises the projects that are proposed before it. Necessary scientific and technical advice is sought, of course, provided in the Act itself, as to what activities could be permitted for development purposes. For example, on any road, a bridle path that is available in the forest itself could be strengthened without tar taping. If you require a tar taping, then environmental clearance under the Environment Protection Act needs to be obtained.

Thus, there are some established procedures. These are no questions of discretion. Once the State Government adopts the established procedures, we are ready to give the clearance.

*445. [The questioner (Shri Ekanath K. Thakur) was absent. For answer *vide* page 37 *infra*.]

Gauge conversion of Madurai-Dindigul rail line

*446. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the nine on-going gauge conversion projects in the southern zone Rs. 500.00 crores were needed but the amount sanctioned was only Rs. 125.00 crores;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Madurai-Dindigual metre-gauge line has to be converted in view of increase in traffic; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) As per the Budget 2005-06, 10 gauge conversion projects are in progress in Southern Railway. Out of this, 3 gauge conversion projects have already been completed and remaining 7 projects are ongoing. As on 1.4.2005, the completion of ongoing gauge conversion